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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATION OF WORK, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE

Note by the Secretariat

1. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 46/168 of 19 December 1991, the General Assembly approved the provisional agenda for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In the same resolution, the Assembly endorsed the proposals of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on the organization of work and provisional rules of procedure of the Conference. Subsequently, the Assembly, in its decisions 46/468, 46/469, 46/470 and 46/471 of 13 April 1992, took further decisions on these matters. The proposals contained herein have been prepared on the basis of the above-mentioned resolution and decisions.

I. PRE-CONFERENCE CONSULTATIONS

2. In its decision 46/468, the General Assembly decided that the Conference should take place from 3 to 14 June 1992, with pre-Conference consultations to take place on 1 and 2 June. The purpose of the consultations, which will be open to all participating States, is to reach final agreement on recommendations to be made on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with by the Conference at the opening meeting, including the election of officers, the composition of the General Committee, the distribution of posts in the General Committee among regional groups, the adoption of the rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee and arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference. It is proposed that the pre-Conference consultations should be conducted under the chairmanship of the head of the delegation of the host country.

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* A/CONF.151/1.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

3. Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure for the Conference (A/CONF.151/2) provides that:

> "The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, 39 Vice-Presidents and an ex officio Vice-President from the host country and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a Chairman for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. These officials shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions."

4. Pursuant to that rule and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/168, the Conference would thus have a General Committee composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur-General and the Chairman of the Main Committee. In accordance with standard practice, the Presidency of the Conference would go to the host country. The 39 Vice-Presidents would be distributed according to the following geographical pattern: 11 representatives from African States, 9 from Asian States, 4 from Eastern European States, 8 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 7 from Western European and other States.

5. Regional groups should endeavour to ensure that they will be in a position to make known their nominations for the posts in the General Committee at the pre-Conference consultations.

III. ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

6. The Conference will have before it the provisional rules of procedure approved by the General Assembly in paragraph 6 of its resolution 46/168 and its decisions 46/469, 46/470 and 46/471 of 13 April 1992. The provisional rules of procedure are contained in document A/CONF.151/2.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The provisional agenda for the Conference is contained in document A/CONF.151/1.

V. ORGANIZATION OF WORK, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Organization of work

8. In its resolution 46/168, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee regarding the organization of the work of the Conference. Consequential adjustments to those recommendations are required as a result of the provisions of Assembly decision 46/468. Accordingly, the organization of work of the Conference should be as follows:

(i) The Plenary would hold a general debate between 3 and 11 June;

(ii) The Main Committee would meet from 3 to 10 June;

(iii) Heads of State or Government would participate in the concluding events, including the "Summit segment" of the Conference, which will take place from 12 to 14 June.

B. Allocation of items

9. It is proposed that items 1 to 8 and 11 of the provisional agenda be considered in plenary meeting, and that items 9 and 10 be allocated to the Main Committee, which will submit a report to the Plenary upon the conclusion of its work.

C. General debate

10. The general debate will take place from the afternoon of 3 June to 11 June. No delegation will be allowed to speak more than once in the general debate. A time-limit of 15 minutes will be established for statements by representatives of Governments, 10 minutes for representatives of United Nations specialized agencies, organizations and programmes and intergovernmental organizations, and 7 minutes for all other statements. Although only heads of State or Government would participate in the concluding events ("Summit segment") on 12 and 13 June, any head of State or Government may address the Conference on behalf of his/her State during the general debate.

D. Establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference

11. The Main Committee of the Conference would meet from the afternoon of 3 June to 10 June. Its Chairman would be elected by the Conference in accordance with the provisions of rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedures of the Conference. In accordance with the provisions of rule 50, the Main Committee will elect its own officers. It is proposed that the Main Committee elect four Vice-Chairmen on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, one of whom would be designated to assume the additional functions of Rapporteur. It is recommended that agreement be reached on the slate of candidates for posts falling within the ambit of the Main Committee before the opening of the Conference, thus permitting elections by acclamation and dispensing with the requirements of a secret ballot.

E. Timetable for the work of the Conference

12. The proposed timetable for the work of the Conference is contained in the annex to the present note. It is understood that the Main Committee will adjust its organization of work as required.

F. Organization of meetings

13. The resources available to the Conference permit the holding of a maximum of four simultaneous meetings in the morning and four in the afternoon, with interpretation facilities, including committees, subcommittees, working groups and informal consultations. Interpretation facilities can be provided to regional or interest group meetings only when these are held in place of formal meetings.

14. In accordance with the provisions of rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions. Subject to the decision of the Plenary of the Conference, the Main Committee may also set up subcommittees and working groups. It should be noted, however, that committees, subcommittees and working groups can be established only to the extent permitted by conference service facilities available at the Conference site.

15. Meetings shall normally be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In order to ensure the most efficient utilization of available resources, it is essential that all meetings start promptly at the scheduled times.

VI. SIGNATURE OF CONVENTIONS

16. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will be open for signature by States Members of the United Nations or of any of its specialized agencies or States that are Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice and by regional economic integration organizations at Rio de Janeiro, during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 20 June 1992 to 19 June 1993.

17. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will be opened for signature at a ceremony at the site of the Conference on 4 June 1992. It will remain open for signature until 14 June. Delegations will be informed as to the arrangements for reserving time slots for signing the Convention and for the deposit of their full powers for this purpose.

18. Information on arrangements with respect to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be provided at a later date.

VII. CONCLUDING EVENTS ("SUMMIT SEGMENT") OF THE CONFERENCE

19. After consultations with the Government of Brazil, the following arrangements have been made for the concluding events ("Summit Segment") of the Conference:

(a) The dates of 12 and 13 June have been set aside for heads of State or Government wishing to address the Conference in the Plenary Hall. Only heads of State or Government may take the floor during this period. The time available allows for only one statement to be made by a representative of each State;

(b) Since a growing number of heads of State or Government are indicating their interest in addressing the Conference on those dates, their statements will have to be limited to less than the 15 minutes allocated to Governments during the general debate in plenary meeting. A time-limit for statements to be made on 12 and 13 June will be suggested when the final number of heads of State or Government wishing to speak on these dates is known;

(c) A final meeting of heads of State or Government will be held in the afternoon of 13 June, at which time the President of the Conference and the Secretary-General of the United Nations will make concluding statements. It is suggested that, given the limited time available for the final meeting, a brief statement be made on behalf of each group. Consultations among Governments might be held at the beginning of the Conference and/or during the pre-Conference consultations on 1 and 2 June, to identify the heads of State or Government who would make such statements on behalf of their groups;

(d) On 14 June, a ceremony will be held before the closing of the Conference at which heads of State or Government in attendance as well as other heads of delegation would be invited to sign a closing document(s) reflecting the decisions of the Conference. Arrangements for this ceremony might be reviewed during the pre-Conference consultations.

VIII. CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONFERENCE: APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

20. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that there shall be a Credentials Committee of nine members appointed at the beginning of the Conference, and that its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-sixth session.

21. At the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the Credentials Committee was composed of the following States: Belgium, Belize, Chile, China, Lesotho, Singapore, Togo, Russian Federation and United States of America.

IX. REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

22. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the report of the Conference consist of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the events leading to the convening of the Conference and the proceedings, including a summary of the substantive work conducted by the Plenary and by the Main Committee and any other committee established by the Conference, as well as a repertorial account of the action taken in plenary meeting.

23. As has also been the practice, it is recommended that each regional group be requested to designate, before the opening of the Conference, two persons to serve as friends of the Rapporteur-General, and two persons to serve as friends of the rapporteur of the Main Committee, to assist those officials in preparing the draft report of the Conference.

Annex

PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

First week (1-5 June)

Monday, 1 June and Tuesday, 2 June		Pre-Conference consultations
		Plenary
Wednesday, 3 June		
10 a.m.	Item 1	Opening of the Conference
	Item 2	Election of the President
	Item 3	Adoption of the rules of procedure
	Item 4	Adoption of the agenda
	Item 5	Election of officers other than the President
	Item 6	Organization of work, including establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference
	Item 7 a/	Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
		(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee
3 p.m.	Item 8	General debate
Thursday, 4 June		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 8	(continued)
6 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers on item 8	
Friday, 5 June		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 8	(continued)

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a/ Item 7 (b), entitled "Report of the Credentials Committee", will be scheduled for consideration by plenary at a date to be determined.

Second week (8-14 June)

Monday, 8 June		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 8	(continued)
Tuesday, 9 June		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 8	(continued)
Wednesday, 10 June		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 8	(continued)
Thursday, 11 June		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 8	Conclusion of general debate
Friday, 12 June		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Summit segment:	Statements by heads of State or Government
Saturday, 13 June		
10 a.m.	Summit segment:	Statements by heads of State or Government (continued)
3 p.m. b/	Summit segment:	Meeting of heads of State or Government
Sunday, 14 June		
10 a.m.	Item 9	Adoption of agreements on environment and development
	Item 11	Adoption of the report of the Conference
	Closure of the Conference	

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b/ The exact timing of the meeting of heads of State or Government will depend on whether the statements of heads of State or Government have been concluded.

Main Committee

First week (3-5 June)

Wednesday, 3 June

3 p.m.		Election of officers
		Organization of work
	Item 9	Adoption of agreements on environment and development
	Item 10	Signature of Conventions

Thursday, 4 June

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 9	(continued)

Friday, 5 June

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 9	(continued)
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 9

Second week (8-10 June)

Monday, 8 June

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 9	(continued)

Tuesday, 9 June

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 9	(continued)

Wednesday, 10 June

10 a.m.	Item 9	Conclusion
3 p.m.		Action on all outstanding matters
		Completion of the work of the Committee